

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00130 242232Z
ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
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SP-02 SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 EPA-04
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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6826
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SENV, SOPN, CA
SUBJ: ONTARIO REPORTED FED UP WITH ATIKOKAN NEGOTIATIONS
AND WILL PROCEED WITH PLANT CONSTRUCTION

1. IN A PAGE FOUR ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY 22 SUNDAY STAR, STAR
WRITER ROSS HOWARD REPORTED THAT ONATRIO HAS CALLED OFF
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON ALLEGED POLLUTION FROM
THE ATIKOKAN HYDCO POWER PLANT "BECAUSE WE ARE TIRED OF BEING
KICKED AROUND BY THE AMERICANS." IN THE ARTICLE, HEADLINED

"ANGRY ONTARIO CUTS POLLUTION TALKS WITH U.S.", A SPOKESMAN
FOR THE PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF ENERGY WAS QUOTED AS HAVING
STATED "THE GLOVES ARE OFF. THE U.S. PUTS OUT FACTS ABOUT
THE NEGOTIATIONS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD.
WE'RE LOSING ALL THE BATTLES FOR THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC."
THE SPOKESMAN ALLEGEDLY CONFIRMED THAT ONTARIO WILL ATTEND
NO MORE MEETINGS ABOUT THE UTIKOKAN PLANT AND "CONSTRUCTION
OF THE PLANT WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED."

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2. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT A DELEGATION FROM FOUR
ONTARIO MINISTRIES WITH FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES MET
WITH AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS PRIVATELY IN WASHINGTON
LAST WEEK TO COMPARE STUDIES. "BOTH THE CANADIAN
AND THE U.S. DATA SHOWED OBVIOUSLY AND CLEARLY THAT
THERE WILL BE NO INJURIOUS EFFECTS TO ONTARIO'S OR
MINNESOTA'S ENVIRONMENT," THE CANADIAN DELEGATE

STATED AFTER THE MEETING, "BUT NOW THE AMERICANS ARE WORRYING ABOUT UNKNOWN EFFECTS. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THAT?" THE ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT A U.S. SPOKESMAN AFTER THE MEETING HAD SAID THAT CANADA HAD AGREED TO CONSIDER REFERRING THE ISSUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION. JAMES TAYLOR, WHO RESIGNED AS ONTARIO ENERGY MINISTER LAST WEEK, SAID THAT THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATION "REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION OF HAVING THE IJC INVOLVED." TAYLOR CONTINUED "MY CONCERN WAS, IN FACT, WHETHER THE 24 COAL FIRED POWER STATIONS NOW OPERATING IN MINNESOTA ARE CONTRIBUTING TO POLLUTION IN ONTARIO. THE PREVAILING WINDS COME FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER."

3. COPIES OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.N

4. COMMENT - SUNDAY IS A VERY SLOW NEWS DAY IN TORONTO AND THE SUNDAY STAR, INAUGURATED ONLY SOME MONTHS BACK, HAS FILLED ITS PAGES WITH FEATURE STORIES. THIS COVERAGE ON ATIKOKAN WAS NOT REFLECTED IN ANY OF THE SATURDAY OR MONDAY TORONTO PAPERS.
HIGGINS

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